

Appln. No. 09/763,369  
Amd. dated January 16, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. A method for determining the prognosis of an HIV infected individual, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

measuring the level of one or more prognostic marker(s) selected from the group consisting of anti-tat antibodies, tat protein, and anti-tat antibodies in combination with p24 protein, in the serum of an HIV infected individual; and

comparing the measured level of the prognostic marker(s) with levels of the prognostic marker(s) indicative of disease progression or non-progression; and ~~to determine~~

determining the prognosis of the HIV infected individual, wherein high anti-tat antibody levels alone or in combination with low p24 protein levels is indicative of disease non-progression and low anti-tat antibody levels alone or in combination with high p24 protein levels is indicative of disease progression.

2. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said measuring step measures the levels of anti-tat antibodies and p24 protein ~~and/or tat protein.~~

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

4. A method for ~~treati~~ng an evaluating a treated HIV infected individual, comprising the steps of:

measuring the level of anti-tat antibodies or ~~tat protein in~~ an the levels of anti-tat antibodies and p24 protein in a treated HIV infected individual over time; and

determining whether the level of anti-tat antibodies has decreased sufficiently or whether the level of ~~tat~~ p24 protein has increased sufficiently while the level of anti-tat antibodies has decreased sufficiently to warrant further treatment of the HIV infected individual administration of a tat vaccine; and

administering a tat vaccine to the HIV 1 infected individual when warranted to bring up the level of anti tat antibodies.

5. A method for evaluating the immune response of a non-infected individual as a result of prior immunization with a tat vaccine, comprising the steps of:

measuring the level of anti-tat antibodies or ~~tat protein in~~ the serum of a non-infected individual before and after immunization with a tat vaccine;

administering a tat vaccine to immunize the individual; and measuring the level of anti tat antibodies in the serum of the individual to determine the individual's humoral immune response to tat protein after immunization.